COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,

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# INTERNATIONAL LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH

AND

## LIST OF UNDESIRABLE OR INDEFINITE TERMS.

Printed for the assistance of Medical Practitioners in filling up the Medical Certificates of Cause of Death required under the various Registration Acts.



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#### SUGGESTIONS TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

The International List of Causes of Death, as revised in 1938, is shown on pages 2-6 of this booklet. It is desirable, in order to enable causes of deaths to be assigned to one of the titles or sub-titles of this list, that medical practitioners should employ as far as possible only those terms recognized in the Nomenclature of the Royal College of Physicians of London. The use of cague and ill-defined terms is particularly to be avoided.

An alphabetical list of undesirable terms is appended (pages 7 and 8) with commenta indicating in what respect the term is unsatisfactory and what further information as to the cause of death is required in each case.

This list is intended for reference only, and it is hoped that it will be consulted by certifying practitioners in any case in which they are not assured that the term used by them is included in the Nomenclature of the Royal College of Physiciana.

The essential part of a Medical Certificate of Death is a statement of the disease, or violent or unnatural cause, which was primarily responsible for the death, or which, in other words, initiated the train of events leading to death. Secondary or contributary causes are frequently of great value for statistical purposes, and should be added to the certificate, but in no case should they be stated to the exclusion of the primary cause.

Secondary causes abould be stated as "due to" or "following" the primary cause.

The terminal condition or mode of death is not asked for in the certificate and should never be given. For this reason terras such as "Heart Failure," "Synoope," "Asphyxia," "Exhaustion" and the like, should never appear on a certificate.

In cases where an indefinite term has to be employed because more definite information is lacking it is desirable that this fact should be indicated on the certificate.

When possible, it should be stated in the certificate whether the condition was acute or chronic.

#### CLASS I .- Infertire and Permitic Diseases.

- 1. Typhoid fever.
- 2. Paratymbuid fevers.
- 3. Plague.
- 4 ('holere
- 3. Undulant forces
- 6. Cerebro-spinal meningpoweral meningitis.
- 7. Walismant postule and anthrus.
- 8. Seariet fever
- 9. Whooping cough.
- 10 Diphtheria
- 11. Ervsipelas. 14 Tetanna
- 13 Tuberculosis of the resultatory system-
  - (a) With mention of occupational disease of lung.
  - (h) Other
- 14 Tuberculosis of the meningre and central nervous system-(a) Meninges.
  - (6) Other eiter
- 15 Tuberculosis of the intestines and peritoneum-
  - (a) Intestines.
- (h) Other sites. 16 Tuberculosis of the vertebral column.
- 17. Tuberculosis of other bones and joints-
  - (a) Bones.
  - (h) Lointe
- 18. Tuberculosis of the skin and subcutaneous cellular tissue.
- 19. Tuberculosis of the lamphatic system.
- 20. Taberculous of the genito-urmary system.
- 1). Tubery Josis of other oreans.
- 40 Disseminated tuberculosis-
  - (a) Acute generalized miliary tuberculous. (b) Chronic generalized tuberculosis.
  - (c) Unspecified.
- 23. Leprony.
- 24. Purulent infection and septicaemia.
- 45 Generoccal infections.
- 38. Other bacterial diseases (dyseatery excepted).
- 27. Dysentery-
  - (a) Bacillary. (6) Amoebic.
  - (c) Other
- '8 Malaria
- 29. Other diseases due to parasitic protosos.

- 30. Syphilis-
  - (a) Loromotor stavia.
    - (b) General paralysis of the innane.
    - (c) Ansuryam of the aorta.
    - (d) Congenital synhilis. (e) Other forms of syphilis.
- 31. Helapsing fever.
- 32. Other diseases due to spirochactes.
- 33 Influenza-
  - (a) With respiratory complications.
  - (b) Without respiratory complications.
- 34. Smallnox.
- 25 Meastes
- 36. Acute poliom velitis and polio encephalitis.
- 37. Acute infectious escephalitis (lethargic or epidemic)-
  - (a) Acute lethargic encephalitis.
  - (b) Sequelae of encephalitis lethargica.
    - (c) Unsperified murephalitis lethargica.
- 38. Other diseases due to viruses-
  - (a) Yellow fever.
    - (b) Rabine.
    - (c) Herpes zoster.
  - (d) German messics
    - (e) Chicken pox.
  - (f) Others.
- 39. Typhus and typhus-like diseases (rickettsioses)
- 40. Ankylostomiesis,
- 41 Hydatid disease-
  - (a) Liver.
  - (b) Other organs.
- 42. Other diseases due to helminths.
- 43. Mycoses.
- 44. Other infective or parasitic diseases-
  - (a) Venereal diseases (other than syphilis and genorrhosa). (b) Pernicious lymphogramulomatosis (Hodekin's disease).
  - (c) Mumps.
  - (d) Others.

## Chass II -Course and other Tunors.

- 45. Cancer, &c., of the buccal cavity and pharvax 46. Cancer, &c., of the digestive organ- and peritoneum-
- (a) Oceouhague.
  - (6) Stremarh and duodenum.
  - (c) Intestines other than duodensum or rectum.
  - (d) Rectum.
  - (e) Liver and biliary passages.
  - (f) Panerras.
  - (a) Peritoneum.
  - (A) Other digestire organs.
- 47. Cancer, &c., of the requirators exstem.
- 48. Cancer, &r., of the sterms.
- 49. Cancer, &c., of other female genital organs.
- 50. Cancer, &c ... of the breast...
- 51. Cancer, &c., of the male genital organs.
- 32. Cancer, Av., of the male and female primary organs.
- 53 Cancer &c. of the skin.
- 34. Cancer. &c., of the brain and nervous stinte me-
  - (a) Glioma (not specified as benign).
  - (6) Other
- 55. Cancer. &c., of other or unspecified organis.
- 56. Non-malignant tumours-
  - (a) Lite run.
  - (b) Other female genital organs.
  - (c) Brain and nervous system.
  - (d) Other organs.
- 57. Tumours of undetermined nature-
  - (a) Uterun.
  - 1 (6) Other female genital organs.
    - (c) Heain and pervous system.
    - (d) Other organs.
- (Lan III .- Rhermatim, Diseases of Nutrition and of the Endocrine Glands, Other General Diseases and Vitamin-Deficiency Diseases.
- in Phoumatic fever.
- 50. Chronic rheumatism and other rheumatic disease-(a) Cheomic rhoumatism, chronic arthritis.
  - (b) Rhenmatoid arthritis, osteo archritis,
- 60. Gost
- 61. Pabetes mellitus
- 62. Disease of the nituitary gland. 63. Diseases of the theroid and parathyroid glands-
  - (a) Sample guite.
    - (6) Exceptibality costre.
    - (c) Myxordems and rectinism.
    - (d) (9ther diseases of the thyroid gland.
    - (e) Diseases of the paraths road glands.

- 64. Diseases of the thuman including status lymphaticus).
- 65. Diseases of the adressal glands.
- 66. Other general diseases-
  - (a) Osteomalcia.
  - (b) " Pink " di mase.
  - (c) Others.
- 67. Scutty-
  - (a) Infantile ocurves.
    - (h) ()ther forms
- 68. Rori, beri
- 69. Pellagra.
- 20 Ricketa
- 71. Other vitamin-deficiency diseases.
- CLAN IV .- Discrease of the Bland and Bland-forming Oceans,
- 72. Harmorrhagie com diffigure.
- 73. Anarmias
  - (a) Persicious and other hyper-brons snacmias. (6) Hypothromic anaemias.
    - (c) Other anneousse.
- 74. Louksemist and alsokaemise-
- (a) Leukarmia
  - (5) Aleukacemia.
- 75. Discuses of the sphere.
- 76. Other diseases of the blood and bloud-forming organo.
  - CLASS V .- Chronic Paintains and Interiorities
- 77. Alrehtim (scute and chronis).
- 78. Lead poissoning-
  - (a) Specified as proupational.
  - (b) Not specified as orcupational.
- 79. Chronic poisoning by other mineral and organic substances-(a) Ocrapational poisoning.
  - (6) Other poissning.
  - CLASS VI.-Diseases of the Nervous System and Scare Organs.
- 80. Encephalitis (non-emidemic)-
  - (e) late cranial abecen.
  - (b) Other forms
- 81. Meningitis (non-meningoroccal)-
  - (a) Simple memingitie.
  - (b) Acute constant spinel meningitis (non-epidemic).
- 82. Diseases of the medialis and spinal cord, n.c.i.

CAUSES OF DEATH-uniformed 83. Intra-cranial lesions of vascular origin-96. Accuryom (other than heart and sorts). (a) Cerebral bas morrhage. 97. Arterio eclerosis (excluding diseases of the coronery arteries, renal (b) Cerebral embolism schronis, and corrheal beamorrham) (c) Cerebral throumboois 98. Gengrene. (d) Softening of the brain. 99. Other diseases of the arteries. (e) Hemiphyia and other raralyses without specified cause. 100. Diseases of the veins-(f) Apolicty and other intra-cranial effusions. (a) Varices. 84. Mental disorders and deficiency-(b) Other diseases of the reins. (a) Mental deficiency. 101. Diseases of the lymphatic system (lymphangitis, &c.). 102. High blood pressure (idiorathic). (b) Schizorhrenin. (c) Other mental disorders. 163. Other diseases of the carrulatory system. 85. Epilepsy. 88. Convertisions in children under five years of age. CLASS VIII .- Diseases of the Respiratory System. 87. Other diseases of the nervius as stem-104. Diseases of the nasal foress and annexa. (et) Chorea. 105 Diwages of the larvay (h) Neuritie 106. Bronchitis-(c) Paralysis agritant. (a) Armte (d) Disenjested sclerosis (h) (hronic (a) Other (c) Unspecified (under five years). 81. Discusses of the organs of vision. (d) Una pecified (five years and over). 80. Diseases of the ear and of the masterid process. 107. Broacho-pneumonia, including capillary broachtes. 108. Lober pneumonia. CLASS VII. - Diseases of the Circulatory System. 100. Parumonia, unsperified. 90. Pericarditis 110. Pleuries. 91. Acute endocarlitis.... 111. Congestion, nedems, embolism, &c., of the lungs. 112. Asihma (a) Bacterial endocarditie

(b) Other scute endocarditis.

\$2. Chronic affections of the valves and endocardinm-

(4) Aprile valve.

(6) Mitral valve

(c) Aortic and mitral raires.

(d) Endocarditie not returned as acute or chronic (45 years and neer)

(e) Other calvular discases. 93. Direases of the myocardium...

(a) Acute myncarditis

(6) Futty beart.

(c) Other avocardial degeneration.

(d) Myrearlitis not specified as acute or chronic. 94. Diseases of the coronary arteries and angine pertoris-

(a) Disease of the coronary arteries.

(6) Angua pertoris with record of coronary disease. (c) Angina pectorie without mention of coronary disease.

94. Other discuss of the heart ...

(a) Functional heart disease without mention of organic lesson

(b) Cardiar dilatation (cause unspecified).

(c) Other and unspecified discusses of the heart.

113. Palmonary curphysema. 114. Other diseases of the respiratory system-

(4) Silicons and other occupational resultatory disease

(b) Gangrene of lung. (c) Abovem of the lung.

(d) Chronic interstitial passuronia other than occupational (e) Other diseases of the respiratory system not specified as orrepational.

CLASS IX .- Discous of the Diputies System.

115. Diseases of the burral cavity and annexa, and of the plaryax and tomaile-

(a) Diseases of the pharynt and tonsile,

(b) Other discases. 116. Diseases of the presubacrus.

117. Uker of the stomach or duodoum-

(a) Stome h. (6) Dundenum.

118. Other diseases of the stomach (onacer excepted)

119. Dierrhoen and enteritis (under two years). 120. Diarrhors and enteritis (two years and over).

- 121. Appendicitie. 100 Hernis, intestinal obstruction-(a) Hernia (b) Intestinal obstruction 1-2 Other diseases of the intestines. 194 Cirrhosis of the liver-(a) With mention of alcoholisms. (b) Without mention of alcoholism. 125. Other diseases of the liver-(a) Acute vellow atrophy. 16) Other diseases. 126. Biliary calculi. 127. Other diseases of the gall-bladder and bile-ducts. 126. Diseases of the panerens. 129. Peritonitis without stated cause. CLASS X .- Diseases of the Genilo Urinary System. 130. Acute nephritis. 131. Chronic nephritis. 132. Nephritis not stated to be acute or chronic. 133. Other diseases of the kidneys and preters. 134. Calculi of the urinary passages. 135. Diseases of the bladder-(a) Cystitis. (b) Other diseases of the bladder. 136. Diseases of the urethra, urinary abovess, &c. 137. Discuses of the prostate-(a) Hypertrophy of the prostate. (b) Others. 138. Diseases of other male genital organs (not specified as venereal). 139. Diseases of the female semital organs (not specified as vanered)-(a) Ovarice, fallopsan tubes and parametria. (b) Uterus. (c) Breast. (d) Other diseases. CLASS XI.-Diseases of Proguency, Childbirth and the Purrperal State. 140. Post-abortive infection-(a) Spontaneous, therapeutic or unspecified. (8) Criminal abortion. 141. Abortion without mention of septic conditions-(a) Spontaneous, therapeutic or unspecified. (b) Criminal abortion. 142. Ectopic gestative. 143. Harmorrhage of pregnancy.

144. Toxacmias of pregnancy-(a) Eclampaia of pregnancy. (b) Albuminuria and nephritis of pregnancy (c) Acute yellow strophy of liver assuriated with pregnancy (d) Other toxacmins of pregnancy. 145. Other diseases and accidents of aregnancy. 146. Haemorrhage of childbirth and the puerperium. 147. Infection during childbirth and the puerperium-(a) Passperal infections. (b) Puerperal thrombophlebitis. (c) Puerperal embolism and sudden death. 148. Puerceral coxumina-(a) Posrperal eclompsia. (b) Puerporal albuminuria and nephritis. (c) Acute vellow atrophy of liver (root-parters). (d) Other puerperal toxasmins. 149. Other accidents of rhildhirth-(a) Careareun section. (b) Other surgical operations and instrumental delivery. 150. Other or unspecified diseases of rhildhurth and the nucrearium-(a) Puerperal diseases of the breast.

(h) Others.

CLASS XII .- Discous of the Skin and Colluter Tissue.

151. Carbuncle, boils.

152. Cellulitie, acute abovem.

153. Other diseases of the skin and aspexa and of the cellular time

CLASS XIII .- Discover of the Bones and Organs of Mosement.

154. Osteomyelitis and periostitis.

155. Other diseases of the bones, except tuberculosis.

150. Diseases of the joints and other organs of movement-(a) Joints.

(b) Others.

CLASS XIV.-Concenited Muldern stime.

157. Congenital malformations-(a) Congenital hydrerophelus.

(6) Spine bufide and meningurete.

(c) Concenital malformation of heart.

(d) Monstronities.

(a) Congenital pyloric man (f) Cleft palate, hardip.

Imperforate anua. (h) Cretic disease of kidney.

(i) Other concession melformen

174. Acridmts in mines and quarries.

200. Cause of death unstated or ill-defined-

benitch-F. (a) (b) Unknown or unspecified.

173. Air transport accidents.

CLASS XV .- Discours wention to the First Year of Life. 158. Congenital debility. 159. Premature birth. 160. Injury at birth. 161. Other diseases peculiar to the first year of life-(a) Assilvata during or after hirth, atelectasis. (h) Interiration due to maternal terrarmin (c) Infections of the ambilious (d) Pemphirus and other infections of the new born. (e) Melaena neumatorum (f) Interes propatorum. (a) Others. Ct. pre XVI .- Sendity, Old Age. 162. Senit tv. old nev. Ct.xin XVII -- Finlest or Arcidental Double. 163. Suicide by poi toning-(a) Nairide by solid or bond toxic or corrosive substances. (6) Nutrate by postoonous gas. 164. Other forms of mirrida-(a) Nozeide by hanging or strangulation. (b) Suicide by drowning. (c) Nuicule by firearms and explosives. (d) Noiride by cutting or pierring instruments. (e) Suiride by jumping from high places. (f) Suicide on railways. (g) Other suicide by rrushing. (A) Suicide by other or unspecified means. 165. Infanticide (infanta under one year). 166. Homicide by firearms (one year and over). 167. Homicide by cutting or pirring instruments (one year and over). 168. Homevide by other or unspecified means (one year and over). 160. Accidents on railways. 170. Automobile accidentstel Collisions with trains (6) Collisions with trams. (c) Other automobile scridents. 171. Other road transport accidents-(a) Treasury accidents (on reads). (6) Cithers. 172. Water transport accidents.

175. Agricultural and forestry appridents-(4) Accidents from farm machinery and velocies. (6) Injury by animals. (c) Others. 176. Accidents caused by machinery, n.e.i. 177. Food uninosine. 178. Arcidental absorption of poisonous gases. 179. Other acute accidental prisoning (not by gas). 180. Conflagration. 181. Accidental burns (confiagration excepted). 182. Accidental mechanical suffocation. 183. Accidental drowning. 184. Accidental injury by firearms. 185. Accidental injury by cutting or piercing instruments. 196. Antidental injury by fall, erosbing landslide, &c .-(a) Fall not otherwise smerified. (b) Other crushings. 187. Catachum. 188. Injury by animals. 189. Hunger or thirst. 190. Excessive cold. 191. Excessive best 192. Lightning. 193. Electricity (lightning excepted). 194. Attack by venomous animals-(a) Sanhebrte. (b) Other. 195. Other arridents... (a) Vaccinia and other sequelae of varcination. (b) Other accidents due to medical or surgical intervention. (c) Lack of care of the new horn. (d) Other acciamata. 196. Deaths of persons in military service during operations of war. 197. Deaths of civilias a due to operations of war. 198. Legal executions. CLASS XVIII.-Ill-defined Cours of Death. 1988 Nuclebra cleath

### LIST OF INDEFINITE OR UNDESIRABLE TERMS.

Endrosralde Terro	Forth v Information Engaged.	Undestrable Terro.	Further Information Required.
Aberes	State cause (especially whether tuberculosis) and situation Tipease causing this condition	Defective development	Cause of this condition. Was the case one of premature birth or of congenital malforma- tion ?
Aridonis		Dentition, teething	Disease causing death
Acetitis, arteritis	Was condition due to syphilis?	Dilatation of stomerh	Symptomatic. What was the cause?
Arrophy of brain or other organ	Posses causing this condition	Disease of hours, brain,	State form of disease and whether acute or
Redictes	Condition contining patient to bed	heart or other organ	Taroni.
Bright's disease	Was it acute or chronic, and if acute what was the cause ?	Dropey, anasarca, ascites Drowning	Disease causing this condition State whether accident or succide
Bronchitas	If tuberculous, this should be stated Always state the elecunicances and whether	Eclampsia	Disease causing this condition. Was it puer-
Burn	accidental or suscidal  (a) Variety; (b) Seat of primary occurrence	Embolism	Site and cause of the embelion. If it was purperal or post-operative this should be
Canrer, carrinoma	if known, otherwise of fatal growth		stated
Cardine anibma		Enrepholitis	Cause of this condition, if known
Cardiac debility		Endocarditis	Specify whether acute or chronic
Cardior dilatation	Disease causing this condition	Extravastation of urine	What was the came? If due to a diseased condition, define the primary sondition
Cardior paralysis	Avoid this term if yomble	Ferer	Name the disease (typhoid fever, lobar para- monia, &c.) in which the "fever" occurs
Cellulitis	See " Abscess "	Fits	Very indefinite. State whether epilepsy, apop-
Cerebral softening	Disease causing this condition		lexy, &c.
Cerebrupinal meningitis	See " Meningitis "	Fracture	indefinite. State (1) the nature of the violence
Childhorth	How this physiological process caused death		that produced it; (2) the means of injury
Circhosis of liver	Cause of this condition. Was it alrehelir or non-alrehelir 2	Gangrene	Direct causing this condition. If due to violence state the means of injury and
Color	Disease causing this condition .	a . 10	whether accident, suicide, or homitide. These terms should not be loosely used to
Congestion of brain, kid- ney, liver, lung, or other	If the discare amounted to an inflammation, use the appropriate term (lohar-pressuresis,	Gastritia gastrir catarris, acute indigration	currer almost any fatal affection with irri- tation of stomach
negan	chronic nephritis, enteritis, &c.). Merely narrive congestion should not be reported	General paralysis, paresis	If general paraly is of the instarc is meant add the words "of the instant "
	as a cause of death. State the primary cause	Glioma Harmoptynia	Specify whether benign or malituant   Disease counting this condition. Was it a case
Conculsions	Disease causing this condition		of tuberculous phthinis ?
Croup	Dirace causing this condition (dishtheria, laryngitis, &c.). Avoid using the word croup at all	Harmorrhage Heart disease, heart trouble	Source and cause of the harmorrange. The exact form of the cardine affection (mitral regurnitation, chronic myocarditis, &c.)
Debilet:	Disease rausing this condition		should be stated

Undesirable Term.	Forther Information Required.	Understruble Term.	Purther Information Required.	
Heart failure, cardiar weakness, cardiac	If no more definite statement can be furnished the return will be classified under ill-defined	Perforation or rupture Pathins	State cause of this condition Always state whether taberculous	
asthenia, &c.	disease, not under heart disease	Pleaney	Cann of this condition	
Homicide	State means employed Cause of this condition, especially if congenital			
Hydrocephalus	or tuberculous  If this term is used as a synonym of acute	Paramonia	State whether lobar- or brenche-pneumonia. Did it follow influenza, measles, or other infections giamage.	
terance paragras	anterior poliomy clitis use the latter term	Ptomaine poisoning	Restrict the use of this term to food poissoning	
Infection, infectious disease	Name the disease, part affected, and nature of infection	Puerperal infection	State the form of puerperal infection See " Septicarmia "	
Jaundice, icterus	Disease causing this condition	Rhaumatiem arthritis.	Acute or chronic ?	
Malignant disease	Taken as equivalent to cancer. The word	åe.	Action of Caroline i	
	"malignant" should never be used in	Rodent ulcer	State position of ulcer	
Malautritina	reference to any other disease Disease causing this condition	Salpingitie	Cause of this condition. Was it puerparal, rentrest, &c. ?	
Maranmus	Disease causing this condition	Sclerosis	Was it scierosis of the spinal cord or general	
Membranous iaryngitis	Was the condition diphtheritic?	Septicaemia, sepaia, &c	Cause of this condition. If localized what	
Meningitis	Cause of this condition, e.g., sepsis (stating source), tuburculosis, meningococyal infec-		part was affected? Was it prorporal or transactio?	
	tion, &c.	Specific	This will always be understood in the sense of	
Natural causes	What disease (probably) caused death	Stricture of intention.	Cause of this condition. Was it cancer?	
Nephritis	Acute or chronic? Was 2 prosperal or scar- latinal?	oesophagus, pylorus, åte,	Course of Cales Commission. Was it remover?	
Ordenia of lungs, &c	Usually terminal. Name disease causing this	Suiride	State means employed	
	condition	Tabes	Tabes dormalis should not be abbreviated to	
Old age, resultly	Disease causing death		" tabee "	
Operation	Always state the condition for which the operation was performed, and, if possible, the cause of this condition	Tuberculosis	Came of this condition State whether general or local, and, if local, the part affected	
Paralysia, paraplegia, beminlegia	Nature, cause, and situation of lesson	Typhoid pneumonia	Avoid the use of this term. Was it a case of enteric fower?	
Parametritis, peritonitis, nelvic aberes, &c.	State the cause of this condition, especially if	Tumour, neoplasm, new growth.	Alvers specify whether malignant or benign and state part affected	
Parotitie (parotiditie)	State definitely whether mumps or not	DEPUSIT COL	Cates of ursemia. Was it postperal, post- ecolotical, chronic Bright's disease, &c.?	
		HAY NOT		